



RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

235 Promenade Street, Room 370
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Rabies Control Board Meeting

Meeting Date: September 16, 2015

Board Member Attendees: Scott Marshall, DVM, C.H. Hannafin, DVM, Charles Brown, (DEM Designee),
Tom Gulluscio

Board Members Absent: Scott Scofield (Providence ACO), Utpala Bandy, MD (DOH Designee), Kevin Breene, (Livestock Farmer)

Non-Board Attendees: Ed Cabral (DEM Enforcement), David Lima, Dr. Henry Leibovitz

Meeting called to order at 10:30 AM by Dr. Marshall followed by roll call of all in attendance. Business will take place at this meeting as quorum was met.

NEW BUSINESS - Variances

Variance Petition: David Lima – requested a variance for his 17 year old cat that was diagnosed with lymphoma and insufficient kidney function. A letter is in the file from Amy L. Hopper, DVM from VCA Atwood Animal Hospital. Dr. Marshall explained the details of an unvaccinated animal plus the stipulations that go along with a variance and once the vote takes place he will be mailed the results.

Motion to approve – Scott Marshall DVM motion to approve issuance of the variance seconded by Dr. Hannafin. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: Language to amend the definition of “Currently Vaccinated.” The discussion regarding lapsed time after the term of a rabies vaccine continued. Dr. Hannafin stated that a 3 year product must be a 3 year expired vaccine and how this change would only apply to a 3-year and not the 1-year lapsed. Dr. Marshall presented draft language for consideration by the board. The language presented would allow a “grace period” of 6 months for an animal that was overdue on a 3-year certificate only, and that the grace period would only allow for issuance of a 3-year certificate if a 3-year product was used within that 6-month period.

Motion to approve – Scott Marshall motion to approve the draft language and to amend the regulations using that language, seconded by Charlie Brown. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Leibovitz said he would revise the rabies submission form.

Dr. Hannafin raised the question of who is responsible for transport of specimens to the lab. The board concluded based on written protocol that it is the ACO that is responsible for transporting; but if they are not available a tech for the veterinarian can drop off the animal as long as it is packaged and tagged as necessary. The DOH lab refuses to accept the entire animal for testing but Dr. Marshall feels they should not refuse the entire animal as it could affect public health.

A written complaint was received regarding alleged animal bites that have not been reported by RI Animal Medical Center/4 Paws Pet Lodge located at 343 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02888. Dr. Hannafin stated similar allegations were made against this facility when he was the State Veterinarian. The board resolved that a letter should be drafted by Dr. Marshall, on behalf of the board, to request that management of the facility review laws and protocols; and that there will be consequences that occur if not applicable laws and protocols are not followed.

Tom Gulluscio continued the discussion started at the April 29th, 2015 meeting regarding issuance of variance tags by. Dr. Marshall stated that these tags would have to be designed and paid for by DEM and that the owner would have to produce a variance letter at the time the tag is requested. Dr. Marshall stated that he didn't feel that the small number of variances that are granted would warrant the expenditure.

Motion to approve: Minutes of the meeting for April 29, 2015 approved by Charlie Brown and second by Dr. Hannafin. Minutes approved without change.

Motion to approve: Minutes of the meeting for June 3, 2015 approved by Dr. Hannafin and second by Charlie Brown. Minutes approved without change.

Motion to approve: Minutes of the meeting for July 8, 2015 approved by Tom Gulluscio and second by Charlie Brown. Minutes approved without change.

NEXT MEETING February 3, 2016 @ 10:30 AM – Conference Room 370A

Motion to adjourn: – Tom Gulluscio motion to adjourn - Scott Marshall second.